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Municipal Government—Commission Form. The new charter of Grand Junction, Colorado, offers another example of the "home-rule" charter embodying the principles of "commission" government. In its general lines it follows the example of the recently adopted charter of Colorado Springs. The "council" consists of five commissioners elected on general ticket for a term of four years. Two or three retire every two years. Municipal elections occur in the odd year. All nominations are non-partisan and made upon petition of at least twenty-five electors. A system of preferential voting is introduced by indicating first, second and third choices upon the ballot.

The council is vested with the usual legislative powers, but no grant of the city's title to any real estate, franchise or right of way may be made except on vote of the people. The manufacture, storage sale or giving away of intoxicating liquors within the city or within a mile thereof is prohibited. Exception is made in the case of storage or gift in private dwellings, "provided such dwelling is not a place of public resort." Sales may be made by pharmacists on prescription under stringent regulations.

Instead of being assigned to departments after election, each commissioner is nominated and elected to the headship of a specific department. The office of mayor is more apparently subordinated than in some other charters from the fact that the commissioner of public affairs is ex officio mayor. The departments are denominated,—public affairs, finance and supplies, highways, health and civic beauty, and water and sewers. The departments of highways, and water and sewers present no unusual features. The commissioner of public affairs seems destined to a busy official life. Besides acting as mayor, he has charge of the police and fire departments, is judge of the municipal court, oversees the inspection of building, wiring, heating, and lighting, and supervises all public utilities not owned by the city. Besides the usual duties, the commissioner of finance and supplies performs the work of a city treasurer. He is also the purchasing agent of the city. The commissioner of health and civic beauty is ex officio city clerk, city auditor, and inspector of weights and measures. Significant of the growing appreciation of the the æsthetic in city affairs is this title of commissioner of civic beauty. Besides caring for the parks and shade trees, it is his duty to "supervise the architectural beauty of the city and make recommendations as to the suitable color, style and character of buildings, pavings, sidewalks and other improvements as to him may seem advisable, to the end of improving the city's appearance and beauty."

The commissioners are the only "officers" of the city. All other

persons in the city's service are termed "employees." Positions in the service of the city may be created or abolished at will by the council. The head of each department nominates and the council appoints all employees except day laborers. Removal is by either a commissioner or by the council. The existing park commission and public library board are continued without pay. A board of charities and a civil service commission are created likewise without pay. Such positions as the council shall determine are to be filled by appointment from eligible lists prepared by the civil service commission. Employees can be removed only for cause or on unanimous vote of the council. It is further provided that no appointment or removal shall be on account of "any religious or political opinions, or affiliations or political service."

The recall of a commissioner may be brought to a vote of the people upon petition of 20 per cent of the electors voting at the last election for governor. No such petition shall be filed against an officer within three months after he has taken office. A proposed ordinance may be brought before the council upon petition. If signed by 10 per cent of the voters and not passed by the council it may be referred to the people at a special election or if signed by 5 per cent but less than 10 per cent it may be voted on at the next regular election. But one special election may be held in any period of six months.

The granting of franchises is surrounded by the safeguards now prevailing. No franchise may be granted but by vote of the people, nor for a longer term than twenty-five years. The right of making regulations as to rates, provisions for safety, and specifications as to service are reserved to the city.

Upon the whole this charter is less carefully worked out in detail than most of those of recent date. Fewer or less efficient safeguards of public interest are provided in the fundamental law and more is left to the discretion of the council. Its operation in these respects will be followed with interest.

FRANK G. BATES.

Municipal Charter Revision—Berkeley, Cal. Berkeley, California, has taken its place among the cities which are trying to improve their municipal government by revising the charters under which they are governed. The constitution of California confers upon the cities the power to draft and adopt their charters, the right being reserved to the legislature to approve or reject the charter as adopted, but without the power of amending it in anyway. In November, 1908, there was elected a board of fifteen freeholders to prepare the charter, among the